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Letter dated 23 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation dated 3 December 2008 concerning the terrorist acts in the Indian city of Mumbai (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 99, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 23 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the State Duma concerning the terrorist acts in the Indian city of Mumbai

3 December 2008

International terrorists have perpetrated yet another bloodthirsty crime against humanity. In the city of Mumbai (Republic of India), following a series of inhuman terrorist acts, hundreds of civilians — nationals of India and of other States — fell victim to the criminals.

The deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation are appalled by this monstrous act directed first and foremost against the friendly people of India.

There can be no justification for the atrocities of terrorist organizations, in whatever ethnic or religious guise. By directing their bloodthirsty acts against civilians, old people, women and children, and striving to undermine the stability and economic prosperity of States and entire regions of the world, the participants in the global terrorist underground are putting themselves outside the law and all morality.

The deputies of the State Duma believe that the international community must rally together in combating the main challenge of the twenty-first century — international terrorism.

The deputies of the State Duma express their firm adherence to the conclusions and proposals contained in the statements of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of 22 September 2004, on international cooperation in combating terrorism, and 9 September 2005, on the inadmissibility of double standards in combating terrorism, and also in the message dated 24 January 2003 from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the parliaments of the world concerning the need to develop international cooperation on issues of the extradition of persons involved in terrorist activity.

The counter-terrorist coalition of the leading world powers must be brought back to the political arena and must secure the unconditional implementation by all members of the international community of the global counter-terrorism strategy adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006. The efforts of contemporary civilization must be directed at combating those who have posed a direct challenge to it. It is inadmissible to expend resources and efforts on creating and deploying weapons systems aimed against imaginary and hypothetical threats at a time when thousands of completely innocent people are dying as a result of a real evil.

The Russian Federation and India, whose nationals have frequently been the targets of attacks by international terrorists, have always acted consistently and resolutely, shoulder-to-shoulder against terrorism. In putting forward the initiative to draw up an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005, the Russian

Federation believed that it would provide additional impetus to the development of broad international counter-terrorist cooperation.

The deputies of the State Duma express concern about the stalemate concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism proposed by India and stress the need for the United Nations to reach early agreement on this very important document, which should become the basis of the international legal framework for combating terrorism.

The State Duma expresses deep sympathy to the relatives of the victims of the terrorist acts in the city of Mumbai and reaffirms its unfailing and sincere solidarity with the Indian people in their just struggle against the terrorist threat.